

June 5, 1999

Dr. Jane E. Henney, Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71  
Rockville, MD 20857

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Dear Dr. Henney:

I am seriously concerned about the ongoing use of certain antibiotics to promote growth of livestock to be used for human consumption. The situation has become more grave and complex because their proliferating use for livestock has turned into an alarming medical problem. When these same drugs are also used to treat humans, they are apparently causing increased resistance to certain bacteria.

In other words, the desire on the part of livestock producers, such as hog and poultry farmers, to fatten their products artificially, is being allowed to turn into a damaging public health situation. I am keenly disturbed by this matter from both the aspects of escalating dangers from resistant infection and from the even more basic viewpoint of public health.

Two years ago the World Health Organization called for a ban on use of antibiotics to fatten livestock. Since then, the European Union has adopted such a ban. It is time for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, upon which the American public relies to guard it from avoidable public-health dangers, to step forward firmly and adopt a ban on this unsafe practice in America.

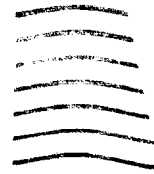
The lobbying efforts of the livestock industry and drug manufacturers must not be allowed to dictate harmful medical effects for Americans. Americans have a right to assume the meat products they purchase will not be detrimental to their health. ~~we~~ I urge you to take vigorous regulatory steps before we have a real crisis on our hands.

Sincerely, *Jill McGrath*

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